HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF THE

VILLAGE and TOWNSHIP

OF

GAINES

Orleans Co. N.Y.

Published by the
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
1 9 0 9

"Time speeds away, away, away;
Another hour, another day,
Another month, another year,
A century gone like the leaflet sere."

The Farmer's Bank of Orleans

CITIZENS' MEETING

A NUMBER of the citizens of the town of Gaines met at White's hall Friday evening, July 9, 1909, for the purpose of making preparations for the proposed centennial celebration. The enthusiastic conversation being stilled by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," the meeting was called to order by Miss Nellie Briar, Racket Club president, H. Clure White was elected chairman and Charles Prussia secretary. After introductory remarks by the chairman and informal discussions, the following committees were chosen:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

William Briar, George Bennett and Dr. F. H. Lattin.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

District No. 1—H. R. Anderson.
District No. 2—William Lafler.
District No. 3—Eugene Sterling.
District No. 4—C. W. Reed.
District No. 5—George Coloney.
District No. 6—Horatio Swartz.
District No. 7—James Bennett.
District No. 8—Roy Crandall.
District No. 9—Byron Densmore.
District No. 10—Edward Snyder.
District No. 11—S. W. Smith.
District No. 12—Seth Wood.
For Albion, John Bidelman, H. D. Lattin.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

Dr. Frank W. Lattin. H. R. Anderson.

Parade, Sports and Amusements.

O. C. Mather, Mark Cole, Nahum Lattin, Elbert Rowley.

DECORATION COMMITTEE.

George Coloney, John Wilson, William Lafler, Miss Gertrude Prussia, Mrs. Isaac Taylor, Miss Georgia Beachtell.

MUSICAL COMMITTEE.

Mrs. George Anderson Charles Prussia

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE.

H. Clure White S. T. Church Orrin C. Mather

Miss Alma Lovewell Mrs. Effie Barnum

Miss Katherine B. Rowley Miss Mildred Barnum

HISTORY

IT WAS only one hundred years ago that the first settlers came to Gaines, but they found the country covered with forests, broken only by the Indian trails and the streams. Still, though it was yet a wilderness infested by Indians and wild animals, the connection of the white men with it had begun long before.

The states of Massachusetts and New York both claimed this section, New York, because of the settlements of the Dutch at Albany in 1623, Massachusetts, according to her "sea to sea" charter, granted in 1628. It was decided that the land should be divided, Massachusetts taking the west half. After several changes in ownership, this part came into the possession of Robert Morris, the patriot and financier of the Revolution. In 1793 he sold the greater part of this land to a company of Hollanders. This tract constituted the Holland Purchase, and embraced all of New York west of the Transit line, excepting a strip a mile wide along the Niagara river, which belonged to the state.

In 1798 the work of surveying was begun by Joseph Ellicott. The first survey was of the eastern line of the Purchase, from Pennsylvania to the lake. From the name of the instrument used this line was called the Transit. Afterwards surveys were made of the two main thoroughfares of the county, the Ridge and the Ooak Orchard roads.

At the Land Office in Batavia the records of the company were kept and the business was done. There the settler on the payment of a dollar, received an "article" for the land which he had selected. This article, or contract, bound the company to sell the land designated, the settler to pay the remainder of the purchase price within ten years. With

his last payment he was to receive his deed. These articles could be transferred from one person to another by "assignment."

According to the records of the company Elizabeth Gilbert, on March 3, 1807, took out an article for land on I. 39, T. 15, R. I, one-half mile east of the present village of Fair Haven. The Gilberts, therefore, were the pioneers of the town. The next article was taken out by John Bassett April 15, 1808 for land on the south side of the Ridge across from the Gilberts.

The history of the town really begins in 1809, as it was then that the settlers began to come in numbers, and that articles were given for a large part of the land along the Ridge. Among the men coming in that year were: Sibley, Wilcox, Leach and Burgess, west of the Oak Orchard trail; Abigail Sager, Crippen and Drake, east. Soon afterward, James Mather, John Proctor, William Babbitt and Robert Anderson came. They were all important men in the history of the new setlement.

These men and women met with all the hardships of pioneer life. Their homes were log huts, each in its little clearing. The flesh of the wild animals, together with supplies they had brought from the east, composed their only food. Their one means of livelihood lay in the forest, not in selling lumber, but in burning it. When James Mather first came, he established asheries, to which the black salts were brought from miles around, and exchanged for bare necessities. As time went on, more settlers came, the clearings grew larger, some of the log houses were replaced by frame, schools and stores were opened, then the mail and stage lines started, and many more industries sprang up.

However, this settlement had its share of trouble and danger. During the war of 1812, the American fugitives and British deserters kept the people continually alarmed by their reports of the skirmishes along the Niagara frontier. After the burning of Lewiston, when the British and

The First Frame School House in the County

Indians were marching in triumph down the Ridge, the men of this town, with Captain McCarthy at their head, went to meet the invaders, and did valiant service there.

The years following the war were hard ones for the settlers. The harvest of 1814 was barely sufficient to keep off starvation. In 1816 the crops were nearly ruined by frosts, so that many families were compelled to eat roots and herbs. Even during the fruitful years which followed, the difficulty of access to market was a great drawback.

The new settlements were always afflicted with sickness, due to the lack of drainage. In some places there were hardly enough healthy people to care for the sick. As the country was cleared and the land was put under cultivation, the health of the community improved.

The town of Ridgeway, which comprised all of the present county of Orleans, had its first town meeting in 1813. Oliver Booth, 2nd, was elected supervisor. In 1816 the town of Gaines was set off from Ridgeway. Its first town-meeting was held in Booth's tavern. For a short time Gaines was the county seat of Orleans. The first court was held there in 1825, Elijah Foot being the first judge. The legislature passed an act in 1832 making Gaines an incorporated village. At this time there were about four hundred inhabitants. In 1838 the Farmers' Bank of Orleans was incorporated. After several years the bank failed, and the village in 1854 lost its charter through dis-use.

Schools.

The regard that the early settlers had for education is shown by the zeal with which they started and carried on the schools. As early as 1813 a school was conducted by Orin Gleason in a log cabin about two miles west of Gaines Corners. In 1815 a log building was erected on the west bank of Marsh Creek, and a school opened by Hannah Strickland for the summer, and Ira H. Beach for the win-

ter terms. About this time a school was kept in a log hut on Otter Creek. The first frame school house was built in 1816 for Gaines and Fair Haven. It was situated on the north side of the road, halfway between the two villages. Soon afterward the district was divided, and each bulit a school house. That same year Anna Frisbie taught in a log building in the Bullard district. In 1817, Five Corners had a school in a corn house, with Ruth Haywood as teacher. In 1818 a board house was built at Otter Creek. The first school house in Gaines Basin was erected in 1823. Nancy Bullard taught. The Eagle Harbor school was started in 1822. The district school at Gaines was kept at one time in the basement of the church. There were also several private schools in the village, among them one conducted by Mr. Shafer, a Congregational minister. His daughter, Miss Helen Shafer, was afterward president of Wellesley College.

The first opportunity for higher education was given by the founding of the Gaines Academy in 1827. The land was deeded to the Academy trustees by James Mather and wife, and Elijah Blont and wife, to revert to their heirs when it ceased to be used for school purposes. The trustees were Eldridge Farewell, Orson Nichols, Calvin Smith, Lathrop A. G. B. Grant, Fitch Chamberlain, Eri Wood, Jeremiah Brown, Robert Anderson, Jesse Beach, Elijah Foot, James Mather, John Proctor and Truman Shaw. The academy was incorporated in 1827 and admitted in 1830 to the Regents of the University of the State of New York. The school was successful and prosperous until the founding of other academies in the county drew the students elsewhere.

Churches:

The Holland Land Company set aside in each town a tract of one hundred acres, to be given to the first church organization of the town that applied for it. In 1822 the

Congregational Society of Gaines village obtained the lot for this town. It was situated on the Oak Orchard road, about two miles from the Ridge. The first church building between the Genesee and Niagara rivers, and between Batavia and the lake, was erected in Gaines village in 1824. This was a union meeting-house, the Baptists and Congregationalists being given the pulpit right. In 1834 the Congregationalists built a church of their own in the east part of the village. These were both frame buildings. The second church building in the town was erected in Eagle Harbor in 1827. This was a brick structure, owned by the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians. In 1834 John Proctor, of Fairhaven, built, at his own expense, a stone edifice at Fairhaven, and gave it to the Universalists. A company of Baptists, who had withdrawn from the Holley church, built a meeting house in 1835 on the Transit, about a mile from the Ridge.

Reminiscences of Almanzor Hutchinson

The following article is compiled from unpublished remininsences of Almanzor Hutchinson.

THE FIRST store was built in Gaines in 1816, on the spot where Botsford's shop now stands, (N. E. corner) but was soon moved away. The second, also built in 1816, was owned by Elisha and Elijah D. Nichols. They later built the building now occupied by Blake (Appleton). It was then used by Nichols and Walbridge and later by Lorenzo Collins. The third store building was erected in 1812 on the site opposite the tavern. The fourth store was a brick building, west of the tavern, built by Ray and Walbridge in 1825; Merrill's failure ruined this. There was a newspaper building about on the ground where the Knickerbocker garden now is.

The earliest tavern was a log hut, built by Oliver Booth previous to 1816, on the present stand. In 1816 he put on an addition. The second, called the Mansion House, was put up by Elijah and Elisha Nichols on the N. W. corner where the blacksmith shop now is. It was a three story frame building with a Masonic hall in the upper story. This building was destroyed by fire. Merrill built the third tavern in 1832 or 1833, on ground now owned by Dr. Eaman. As early as 1824 the Babcock family built the fourth tavern on a site opposite the Free Methodist church.

The first ashery was built by James Mather prior to 1816, near the S. E. corner of the Oak Orchard road; the

second by Nichols in 1816 or 1817 near Richard Andrew's house (Briar); the third was the old distillery west of Ransom Rice's house, transformed into an ashery; the fourth was the old store building south of Blake's (Appleton) store, used for the purpose in 1840. The first two mentioned were for making pearline, the last two for potash. Gaines was said to be the most important ash center in the county and I have seen teams from Niagara, Genesee and Monroe counties bringing salts.

The first brick yard in Gaines was opposite the meeting house, about where the Charles Bidleman (Davis) house now stands. Here the father's of Nahum Anderson and Nelson Hale made brick. James Mather afterwards opened a large brick yard on the north side of the Mather farm. Here the brick for the Eagle Harbor church was made. Afterward a yard was opened up by the old Academy. The Academy, the brick building south of the Free Methodist church, and the first Albion court house, were made of brick from this yard.

In 1816 there was already running a small distillery, built and managed by McAllister. It was built on the present Hewitt farm on the north side of the Ridge by the brook. Another one was built by Tomlinson and Stone as early as 1820, on the lot now owned by Clure White. A third did not run very long.

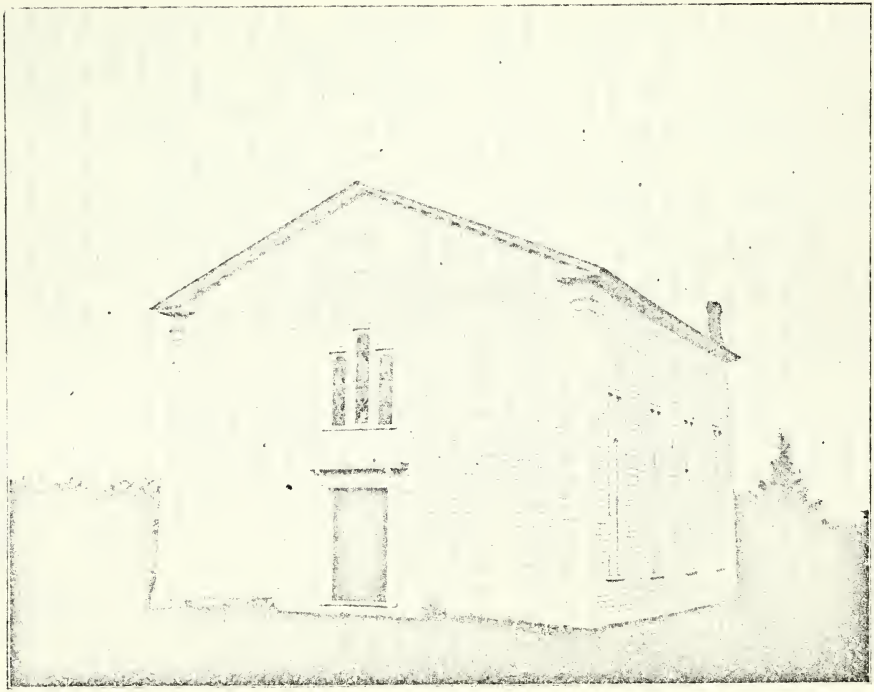
There were several saw mills in the township. One of the earliest was built by Quaker Smith on Otter Creek near the canal at Danold's pond. The Bacons built a saw mill on Marsh Creek, east of the stone house at Five Corners. Before 1827 Ruggles had built a saw mill on Marsh Creek, south of the Ridge. To this mill, as a boy of sixteen, I drew with an ox team, logs for a house built in 1828. Later Billings, father of D. Billings, built a mill on the creek sixty rods north of the Ridge. There was a mill at Otter Creek on the Broadwell farm and one built near Johnson Brown's, not far from Eagle Harbor. In 1830 the Quaker

Smith, the Delano and the Gates mills were running a cloth dressing establishment, also fence manufacturing, etc., was connected with the Delano mill. Gates afterwards built a grist mill.

James Mather, father of George, built a double saw mill just south of the canal in the town of Gaines at Eagle Harbor, in 1829 or 1830 I think. He used the embankment of the canal as his dam also got water from waste weir of canal. This mill ran many years. Later a cloth dressing establishment was built on the south side of the canal, using water from the canal. That was running during the year 1833 and 1834 while I taught there. Still later there was a turning lathe and other machinery in the same place. These also used water from the canal. The cloth dressing establishment had gone out. About this time a grist mill was built by General Beach. Johnson Brown bought James Mather out, and when Beach wanted to build a grist mill, he gave the farm where Brown now lives, for his farm. That mill burned down and Willis P. Collins built a ne wone. This mill burned. The Danolds mill was built by Seaton, who owned the farm and Willis P. Collins. He failed and the mill passed into Beach's hands. This was a frame building and burned. Then Beach built a stone mill, which was owned by Rackham and Backus. This also was burned. The Danolds' mill was built before the one on the canal. The present mill, now owned by Danolds, was built by him. It is a frame building inside of stone walls.

At one time there was a horse tread power mill at Gaines. Afterwards the cloth from here was fulled at Waterport. Every village had a full set of mechanics. Gaines had two tanneries, a newspaper, two or three blacksmiths, hatter, clothier, watchmaker, etc.

In the summer of 1816 a school house was built across the Ridge on Vincent Tomlinson's land. (This is the building now occupied by N. G. Barnum). This building was



The First Church Between the Genesee and Niagara Rivers

used for the undivided district; scholars came from Rowley's Corners and from west of the present Anderson school house. Ira H. Beach, a brother of Dr. Jesse Beach I think, was the first teacher in the winter of 1816 and 1817. The boys took turns building the fires. A man gave my father a chair, for making the fire when his boy's turn came. In about two years the district was divided and a school house was built about 1-2 mile east of Fairhaven, up to this time there was no school building in Gaines, but a log hut, standing where the Blake (Sandle) brick house is, was used. At this time the district division between Gaines and Fairhaven was made, the division line being placed on the section here as it now stands. The building in Gaines was probably erected in 1819 as I attended in 1820. In the same year Mr. Tracy, grand father of Alvah Anderson, occupied the old school building as a dwelling.

While going to school in Gaines I told my first political lie; I was with a boy up by Mr. Knickerbocker's house. We could see the tavern sign. We met a man who asked me who kept the tavern. I told him. He asked whom he would vote for. I said I didn't know. I thought if I told him, he might not stop with father. Father was a Clinton man.

The old Academy building was erected in 1825 and was the first academy between the Genesee and the Niagara rivers. It was opened in 1827 with Huff as the first principal. Upon my entrance I was promoted to a grade higher than some of my mates because I could count in Latin. In the fall and winter of 1827 and 1828 I went to school at the academy. In 1828 the school was run by the monitorial system. In the fall and winter of 1828 and 1829 I was sick but attended school in the spring of 1829. I went to school that summer but that winter 1829 and 1830 I taught at Baldwins Corners for $20 per month. In the winter of 1830 and 1831 I taught west of Two Bridges. In the summer I again attended the academy.

The Gaines academy started with Mr. Huff as principal.

David M. Gazley followed him, with a Mr. Taylor as vice-principal. In 1830 L. S. Morgan was principal and I vice-principal a part of the time. Clary, Littlefield and Bates were some of the most successful teachers and Lyman S. Lovell was the last teacher. Among the students that year were Nahum Anderson, Harmin Daniels (afterwards Rev.), Richardson (afterwards an editor), Kemp from Newfane also Albright Frisby, of Holley, Ingersoll of Albion, Miss Caroline Phipps, who started the Albion seminary, and a Miss Dana, a relative of C. A. Dana editor of the New York Sun. Of the two students studying Latin with me the first year, one became a lawyer and settled in Geneseo, the other was C. Ellis, a poet.

The early religious teachers of the settlement—Congregational missionaries, sent out by their boards; Baptists, sent by the boards or local elders, and Methodist circuit riders. The early organizations were too feeble to build houses of worship. In 1824, when it was hoped that Gaines might secure the county buildings, a group of business men felt that a church building would advance the interests of the town, so formed a building association and erected the present Free Methodist church building. The cost was $1,200 and all the heavy materials were secured in the county. The pulpit right was given to the Congregational and Baptist denominations, to be occupied by each on alternate Sabbaths and by other denominations when not used by them. This was the first house built for public worship north of Batavia, as it was the first one on the Ridge Road between Rochester and Lewiston.

In 1817 the first Sunday school was organized by Miss Charlotte Cummings, later wife of Oliver Booth 2nd. The Baptist society was probably the first, for tradition says that while the Baptists were talking about getting the gospel lot, the Congregational society was organized and as the first religious society, and secured it. The church was organized in 1821, and the gospel lot was deeded to the trustees of

the First Congregational society of the town in 1822, by the Holland Land Company.

The Congregationalists and Baptists used the meeting house in common until 1834, when the Congregationalists built the church in the east part of the town, and deeded their rights in the other building to the Methodist-Episcopal society. In 1840 the Methodist interest was deeded to John Proctor and for several years was used part of the time by the Universalists. In 1847 the Congregational societies divided, but united in 1864 to form the present organization. In 1869 the west church building was deeded to the Free Methodist society.

Stage Coaching on the Ridge Road

MANY ages ago the Ridge Road marked the southern limit of Lake Ontario. Extending from the Genesee river on the east to the Niagara on the west, a distance of about 78 miles, it, from time immemorial, afforded the Indians a trail through which they passed from one hunting ground to another. As early as 1798 the Indians had made known to the white men that this trail existed, and Judge Augustus Porter had sent men to trace a road through near its present location. However, a century ago, the pioneers found this road obstructed by giant forest trees, and were obliged to ford the streams as they came to them, as best they might.

It was not until April, 1814 when by an act of the legislature, $5,000 was appropriated and commissioners appointed to superintend its construction, that the Ridge became a fairly good wagon road. In 1815 under an act passed by the legislature, the Ridge road was regularly laid out and established.

In the early days the pioneers were obliged to go either to Batavia or Clarkson for their mail, but in 1815 a mail was carried over the Ridge road twice a week on horseback by James Brown. The first post office in the county was established at Gaines, July 1st, 1816, through the efforts of Wm. J. Babbitt. He was the first postmaster and the post office was located in the log house in which he lived, on the farm now owned by O. C. Knapp.

The first daily stage route was established in 1816, and the mails were carried through three times a week in car-

riages, drawn by two horses. This route ran west from Canandaigua to Buffalo, via the Ridge road, Lewiston and Niagara Falls, and was controlled by the Coe brothers. It was later owned by a man named Hildreth. Among other early proprietors of the stages were Hiram Hubbard, S. A. Childs & Co., of Rochester, and Silas Walbridge, of Clarkson. The Pioneer line was established in 1828. This route left the Ridge at Wrights Corners for Lockport. It met with much competition and was discontinued in about two years.

The coaches used were the old-fashioned elliptical box pattern, resting on longitudinal leather springs and contained four interior seats. In the winter season a coach box of different pattern was used, resting on bobs. This was rectangular in form with side doors and windows, and with the same seating capacity as the former.

The passengers paid both first and second class fares,—a first class ticket insuring the owners an inside seat. As there was room for only twelve passengers on the inside of the coach, the top would often be crowded, as well, the baggage furnishing seats for the travelers.

As the country became settled and population increased, more taverns were needed to accommodate the tide of travel, and many, more or less pretentious, were erected along the route. The town of Gaines at one time contained at least ten, each one doing a flourishing business.

Often the stage drivers might be seen racing their teams for the nearest tavern, the one arriving first securing the largest number of passengers.

On entering Gaines from the east, the first stop was made at the Five-mile House, or Huff's tavern, which was erected by John Huff in 1816, and afterwards occupied by Wm. Huff, Jerry Dunn and Horatio N. Ball. Here the mail carriers between Canandaigua and Lewiston used to stop over night.

After the death of Mr. Ball in 1873, the hotel was closed.

The Five Mile House

and has never been re-opened. It is now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. B. Swart and her sons. Many gay paring bees, quilting parties and balls were held in this old inn. Of one of these paring bees Mrs. Swart relates the following incident:

One evening a gay paring bee was in progress in the old Five-mile House, and when the fun was at its height, suddenly it was announced that a wedding would take place. Accordingly, Esquire who was present, stepped forward and united the happy couple for life. The astonished guests not to be outdone in providing entertainment for the evening, hastily summoned musicians and forthwith proceeded to celebrate the event by a ball.

The East Gaines hotel or Perry House, was erected by Peter Runion in 1826. It was a two-story wooden building with a veranda in front and stood on the south side of the Ridge, just east of the corners. At one time one of the most popular stopping places along the Ridge, it has long since disappeared. Successive proprietors were Silas Perry, Hugh Doyle and D. S. Rockwell.

The first tavern at Fair Haven was kept by Noah Burgess. It stood on the south side of the Ridge about 1-4 mile west of the corners. It was subsequently occupied by Wm. McCollister, Ebenezer Hutchinson, (father of Hon. Alamanzor Hutchinson,) and Gershom Proctor. The present Fair Haven hotel was built in 1824 by Samuel Percival.

Travel had now increased to such an extent that from eight to ten coaches passed through daily, carrying emigrants, business men and visitors to Niagara Falls. Gaines was probably at this time, the most important village on the Ridge, and when the stage driver blew his horn as he reached the eastern boundary of the Hutchinson farm, and, cracking his whip over his six-horse team, made a grand entrance into the village, a general bustle ensued.

The crowd usually centered around the Mansion House,

which was erected by Wm. Perry in 1816, and stood on the northwest corner of the Ridge.

It has been described as a large three-story wooden building, with high Grecian columns, and was one of the oldest and most imposing structures of the kind between the Niagara and Genesee rivers. At this hotel the stages stopped for refreshments and to change horses. Among the many noted guests entertained under its roof, perhaps the most distinguished were Gen. Scott and Henry Clay, the latter of whom gave an informal reception in its parlors to many leading men of the county. The proprietors of the Mansion House were Wm. Perry, Selah Bronson, P. McOmber, E. Curtis, Bronson & Collins, Sam. Scoville, E. S. Butler, H. C. White, (formerly of the Frontier House at Lewiston) and S. D. Walbridge. This hotel was burned in 1844.

The first tavern in the village of Gaines was built by Oliver Booth in 1811, and stood near the site of the present hotel. It was a log structure one and a half stories high, with a big chimney in the middle and two front entrances—one leading into the bar room, the other into the general reception, dining and sleeping room and containedin all five rooms. In this tavern was held the first town meeting, April 2, 1816. It was soon replaced by a frame building having two large chimneys at each end, which was afterwards lengthened on the east side, giving it the present shape. Booth was succeeded by Chauncy Woodsworth and Pemberton. Martin and Starr, Lewis, Butler, John Hutchinson, S. D. Walbridge, D. Walbridge, E. C. Belote, G. S. Hutchinson, L. S. Palmer, L. Whitney and A. Thurber were some of the subsequent proprietors.

Other hotels in the village were the Pioneer House, built in 1825 or 1826, west of the Oak Orchard road on the south side of the Ridge, and run by Mrs. Agrippa Furman, and

one kept by Dr. Babcock in a brick dwelling erected about the same time on the southwest corner of Academy avenue.

It is said that Wm. Sibley in 1809, built the first tavern north of LeRoy, Genesee Co., on the Ridge road near West Gaines. This primitive structure, built of hemlock boughs with a thatched roof, was soon replaced by a log tavern, built by the wayside for the road was not yet completely cleared. In 1825 Reuben C. Gunn built a hotel on the south east corner of the cross roads at West Gaines, and another was built in about 1826 by Zelotus Sheldon on the southwest corner, and was afterwards kept by John Bannister and E. Durkee. In about 1829 Harvey Noble built a hotel further east, which was kept by W. Durkee, and afterwards by the owner, H. Noble. This hotel was burned in 1900.

Stage coaching gradually declined until about 1850, when it was superseded by the railroads, and one after another these old taverns closed their doors to the public and became private residences, until now in 1909, only one, the Thurber House, built on the site of the old Booth tavern in the village of Gaines, keeps open.

The glory of the stage coach has departed, and in its place huge automobiles suddenly appear and as quickly disappear, enveloped inclouds of dust blinding the beholder, but the grand old Ridge still remains—bordered on either side by magnificent shade trees, beautiful villages, and productive farms, whose orchards are said to yield the best apples in the world.

Land Marks

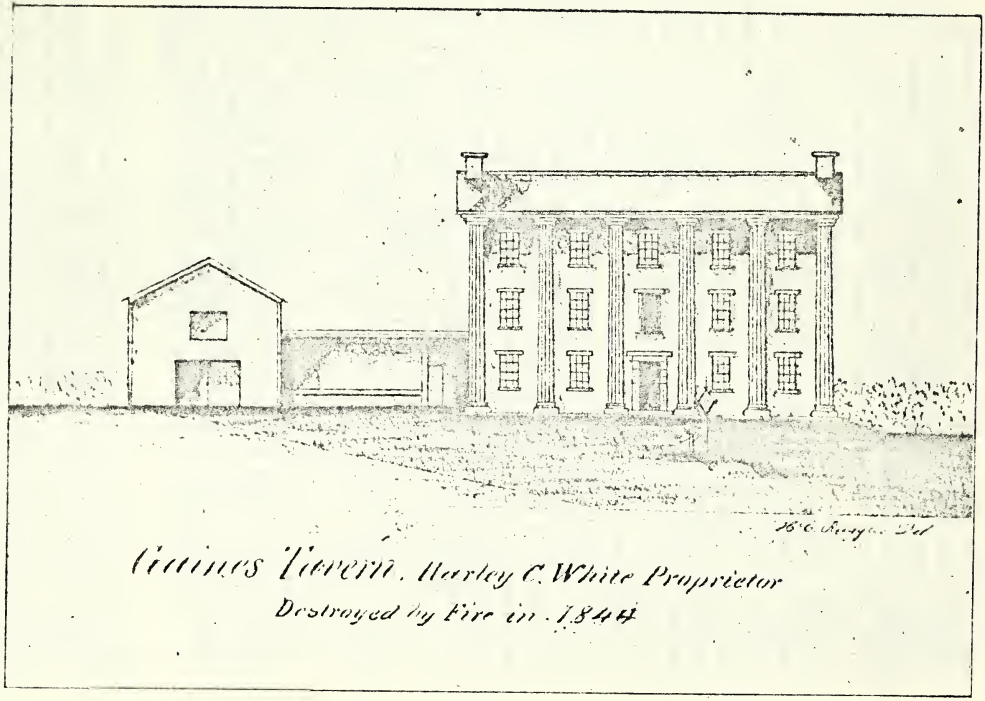
MANY of the first public and business buildings erected in the village of Gaines still remain, viz:—the two churches, the first meeting place of the Baptists, the academy, three hotels, Gaines Tavern still in use as such, Pioneer House and American Hotel. The old grist mill built by Perry Davis who installed the first steam engine in this county, the saw mill on whose log car so many of the youngsters rode back and forth; the first bank building in the county, three store buildings, the brick on the north side of Ridge, now kept by H. Knickerbocker and the wood building on the south side now kept by A. A. Appleton, the Hawkins store on the southeast corner, now used as a dwelling and the office of Dr. Beach.

The Masonic Hall in the second story of the Charles Prussia residence where the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the county had a home, still remains just the same, but the companions have all departed to that celestial Lodge above, from whose bourn no traveler ever returns. Here it was the notorious Mr. Morgan on his way west paid his respects to Mr. Elihu Mather.

Anecdotes

EXTRACTS from a letter from W. Oakley Ruggles, read at the Semi-Centennial Meeting of Gaines Congregational church, August 26, 1874:

Burnham's connection with this church happened in this wise—somewhat irregular, but perhaps worth mentioning. With his usual astuteness, and with an eye to economy, he stabled his cow under the church, which he found no difficulty in doing, as the door had long been broken down, and the "black hole," as the boys called it, was open to all comers from the outside world. Burnham waxed fat and prosperous in those days, for his cow had yielded him a sturdy bull calf, now growing to a two-year-old. It so happened about those days that there was what was called a protracted meeting of evening sessions held in the church. People came from far around, and filled the house. The interest was great, and much good was done; conversions were many, and folks lived better lives. On one of those nights, when the house was crammed to suffocation, and after the clergyman had preached a fervent sermon, and given out a hymn, he called on repentent sinners to come forward for prayers. In the midst of the singing and deep solemnity of the hour, the two-year-old underneath raised his voice. He started off on a high key—a split soprano—then a cracked tenor—and finished with a droning bass,—which performance he repeated several times to the dismay of the preacher, quite upsetting the gravity of the elders, on whose faces twinkled broad grins, while the youngsters revelled in downright laughter. Meeting closed early and the bull-calf was summarily ejected from his comfortable shelter, thus closing Burnham's pseudo connection with this church.



The Mansion House

Deacon Perry Davis was one of the most enterprising men that Gaines ever had. He built a grist mill and a small iron foundry. A part of these buildings now stand northwest of the corner. There works were driven by a steam engine—the first ever brought into Orleans county. He soon after added a tin-shop to the works, and imported a skillful tinman—one who could tin sheet copper—for in those days that was a part of a tin-worker's trade. The tinman answered expectations, and he signalized his advent by making a big tin whistle about the size of a half bushel measure. The tinman, one Friday evening, together with the engineer and Romeyn Ostrander, fitted a steam escape pipe from the boiler to and through a window in the engine room, and put the big whistle on the end thereof. That evening there was a prayer meeting at the old church, and John Anderson, as usual, was leading in prayer. Suddenly there came a noise. Never before had the like been heard—no, not from Rochester to Lockport. It blew—and screeched—and yelled—and roared with tearing and rending roar. Uncle John was dumbfounded—he stopped and stood stock still. The seven rams horns before the walls of Jericho were nowhere. It "shouted with a great shout," then held its breath, and shouted and roared again. The people looked at each other in amazement. When Uncle John opening his eyes said, "Why, deacon, what's the matter at the mill?" Deacon Davis shook his head, said nothing, but took his ivory-headed cane and went to see about it. All bolted out of the church, Uncle John with the rest, and went to the mill, where half the village were already looking at the thing. The big whistle was suppressed.

Told by Miss Alma Lovewell—In 1812 Zacchens Lovewell moved his family up from Oak Orchard Creek and settled in the house built by Mrs. Burgess. At this place Lyman Lovewell, who taught in the old academy, was born. While the family was living in this house, word was brought that

the Indians and British were coming down the Ridge. Everybody was frightened and two of the Lovewell boys, who were quite small, ran to a large snow drift and dug a hole to hide in, never thinking that their tracks could be easily discovered.

Mr. James Calkins, eighty-six years of age, now residing on the farm his father took up and where he was born, tells of the sharp practice of some West Gaines youths in about 1832, Harve Noble, being one of them. As circuses had to get between stands in the night, one was due to pass there with an elephant, in the wee small hours. Like all boys they wanted to see this special one by daylight. They had heard the monsters are fond of sweet apples and, as boys always know where apples grow, had supplied themselves with a goodly number and had scattered them in the road together with all the brush they could collect before the circus came. Mr. Elephant scented the apples among the brush and no amount of prodding with the keeper's staff, profanity nor coaxing could budge that elephant from those sweet apples. It is needless to say the boys won out and saw the elephant by daylight.

He also tells of Mr. Kizer Wilder's yoke of oxen that could out-run a pair of horses. He was on the Ridge road at one time with them when the stage coach came along. Their horses were used to running and could usually beat the best of them, so the driver did not hesitate to tackle this yoke of oxen. Crack went the whip and a race was on for Noble's Tavern. Rattle to bang sounded the old lumber wagon as the long horned racers tore down the road. Travelers, with heads out of the coach windows, the better to enjoy the sport, soon saw the four horses were no match for these gay roadsters, who, with tails erect, waving

high in the air, were getting the best of the race at every jump and soon ran around the stage and up to Noble's Tavern. The stage driver, Mr. Chamberlain, gave up his job, saying he would never again draw rein over horses that could not out-run oxen.

From the same source we get this item, Mr. John Nichols, merchant at Gaines, wanted to purchase a yoke of oxen. Knowing Mr. William Bullard always had the best, he applied to him for a yoke. The latter saying he had a yoke he would sell if they suited Mr. Nichols. One was as good an ox as God's sunlight ever shown on and the other was his mate. Mr. Nichols made the purchase, but soon found mate did not necessarily mean what he thought it did, and was the laugh of the town.

Mr. Charles Prussia remembers Mr. Bullard's telling how he was treed by a bear in the early days, just south of where Mr. Prussia's orchard now is, and that the panthers had a den a little to the west in the gully.

H. C. White remembers Mr. Elijah Bacon's telling him a few years since at Waterport, about his father's sending him on horse back from Five Corners to Waterport to mill. Since he was not able to get his small grist ground until afternoon, he thought he would ride on to Oak Orchard Harbor, as there had just been a road cut out. Boy-like, he tarried there longer than he ought. The dense woods on either side of the road made it quite dark before he got far on his return trip, when he heard the wolves howl on his trail, he took to the creek and rode his horse in the middle of the stream, the wolves accompanying him along the bank to Waterport. There, getting his grist on behind him, and having a better road, he was not long in reaching home, where he found his parents very much worried about him.

The "First Things" of the Town of Gaines

1807 1st article—Mrs. Gilbert.....Geo. Murray farm
1809 1st child—Samuel Crippen, Jr., east of Fair Haven. .....one mile west of Gaines
1st apple orchard, Noah Burgess .....
1st death—Mr. Gilbert .....east of Fair Haven
1810 1st marriage—Sally Wing and Andrew Jacobs.
1811 1st tavern—Wm. Sibley .....West Gaines
1st asheries—James Mather.....Gaines
1812 1st sawmill—Henry Drake.....Otter Creek
1st burying ground* .....Gaines
1813 1st school .....Eagle Harbor Corners
1st teacher—Orin Gleason..Eagle Harbor Corners
1st town meeting of Ridgeway .....Gaines
1st supervisor—Oliver Booth, 2nd.....Gaines
1st blacksmith shop—Wm. Babbitt..Rowley's Cor's
1815 1st physician—Dr. Jesse Beach.....Prussia farm
1st distillery—McAllister.....Hewitt farm
1816 1st town meeting of Gaines.....Booth's tavern
1st postmaster .....Wm. Babbitt
1st postoffice, Knapp farm.....O. C. Knapp
1st frame school house.....N. G. Barnum's res.
1st store—Wm. Perry .....Gaines
1st tannery—Houghton .....Gaines
1817..1st Sunday school .....N. G. Barnum's res.
1st Sunday school teacher, Miss Charlotte Cummings
1820 1st brickyard—Wm. Babbitt.....Rowley's Corners
1st triphammer and axe manufactory.....Gaines
1822 1st attorney*—Orange Butler.....Gaines
1st printing press*—Seymour Tracy.....Gaines
1st newspaper*—Orleans Gazette.....Gaines
1st grist mill—Jonathan Gates.....Otter Creek

1824	1st church building*	Gaines
	1st circus*—Hunter's	Mather farm
1825	1st court*	Gaines
	1st judge*—Elijah Foot	Gaines
1827	1st academy*	Gaines
1830	1st steam engine*—Dea. Perry Davis	Gaines
	1st gunshop*—Romeyn Ostrander	Gaines
1832	1st incorporated village*	Gaines
	1st bank*—Farmer's Bank of Orleans	Gaines

Item marked (*) were also the first in the county.

The Pioneers of 1809

As they took out articles from the Holland Land Company.

TOWNSHIP 15—RANGE 1.

(Between Fairhaven and the west town line.)

May 10. Abigail Sagar
June 24. Isaac Bennett
28. Samuel Cripepn
28. Elijah Downer
28. Oliver Hamblin
July 28. Jabez Deming
28. Henry Drake
28. Levi Leach
Nov. 2. Orin Gleason

TOWNSHIP 15—RANGE 2.

(Between Fair Haven and the west town line.)

Apr. 24. Wm. Sibley
24. Henry Wilcox
28. Whitfield Rathbone
May 10. Whitfield Rathbone
June 26. Cotton Leach
July 12. Daniel Gates
14. Darias Crippen
17. Noah Burgess
Sept. 22. Daniel Pratt
Nov. 2. Cass and McCarty

The Original Owners of Land in Gaines With Their Decendants, Who Are Still Living on the Same Farms

James Mather	O. C. Mather
Robert Anderson	George Anderson
Betsey Hutchinson	Mary A. Hutchinson Mrs. Effie G. Barnum
John Rowley	Katherine B. Rowley
Joseph Winch	Jerome Winch
David Calkins	Janet Calkins
Kizer Wilder	Mrs. Frank Brooks
Walter Fairfield	Mrs. Elizabeth Beach
Amos Clift	Amos Clift
Roswell Lewis	Betsey and Mary Lewis
Alfonzo Sterling	Eugene Sterling

THE ORLEANS REPUBLICAN, Print.